

**REMARKS**

**I. Amendments to the Claims**

Claims 1-67 are pending in the application. Claims 39-66 have been amended to correct several minor typographical errors. Claim 39 had inadvertently been numbered as claim 40. That claim, those which succeed it, and their respective dependencies have been corrected. The amendments have been made voluntarily, not for purposes of patentability and do not narrow the scope of the pending claims. No new matter has been added.

**II. Conclusion**

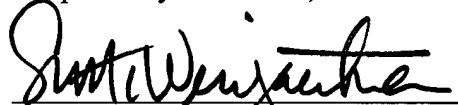
Entry and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added by any amendment herein.

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-66 remain pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

No fee should be due in connection with this communication. However, if any fee is due, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

Dated: May <sup>28</sup>, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Scott T. Weingaertner  
Reg. No. 37,756  
Attorney for Applicants

Customer No. 007470  
White & Case LLP  
Direct Line: (212) 819-8404